THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) Investors of US-64 will be given an option of five year, tax-free tradeable bonds in lieu of cash payments at the time of redemption. Investors of US-64 who opt for bonds will get the benefit of tax-free status of bonds which will carry a coupon rate of 25 to 30 basis points over and above the yield of Government securities of similar maturity at the relevant time.

Recovery of taxes

694. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY:Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Income Tax Department is unable to recover tax from a large number of defaulters;

(b) if so, the total amount to be recovered together with the number of defaulters and the reasons therefor;

(c) the IT. arrears from top 20 industrial houses film stars and other professionals; and

(d) the measures proposed to be taken by Government to recover the dues and the time target set for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) Rs. 62,775.19 crores is outstanding as Income Tax and Corporation Tax as on 31.12.2002. This demand includes current demand as well as arrear demand. The demand is in various stages of process, including appeal. Whether an assessee having outstanding demand is a defaulter or not would depend on a number of factors that may vary from time to time. The details of all defaulters are not Centrally monitored by the Income Tax Department and the efforts required to collect information thereof from offices located all over the country will not be commensurate with the results sought to be achieved.

(c)The Income Tax Department does not maintain separate details of IncomeTax arrears on the basis of categories such as industrial houses, film stars, professionals, etc.

(d) Recovery of taxes is a continuous process involving various statutory procedures. Coercive steps, like attachment of banks accounts, properties and other assets etc. are taken for collection of outstanding demand. Action taken by the Government to recover these dues would depend on the facts of each case.

Computerisation of bank branches

695. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU): Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that despite Government's policy of early modernisation and complete computerisation of the banking sector a number of PSU banks are still lagging behind;

(b) if so, the names of the PSU banks which have not yet made their branches fully computerised, branch-wise and location-wise;

(c) the reasons for not making these bank branches fully computerised; and

(d) by when these branches are likely to be made fully computerised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (d) Based on the Biannual Report on "Progress of computerisation in public sector banks" for the period ended 30th September, 2002 sent by the public sector banks, details of bank branches, partially or fully computerised and percentage of business captured through computerisation are furnished in the enclosed Statement (See below). Computerisation of bank branches is a subject matter of individual bank and it is for the bank to decide about computerisation of their branches depending on cost, benefit, available capital, economic feasibility and business viability.